

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



LINDA S. ADAMS
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1001 J STREET, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • P.O. BOX 2815, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-2815
(916) 323-2514 • (916) 324-0908 FAX • WWW.CALEPA.CA.GOV

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

DAILY READING FILE

To OEX

February 24, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

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Dear Administrator Jackson:

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Congratulations on your appointment as Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.EPA). Although there are a number of important environmental issues that I look forward to working on with you and U.S.EPA, I am writing to you about a very important clean-up site-- the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in Ventura County, California.

SSFL is a former rocket engine testing and nuclear reactor research facility located on a mountain top approximately thirty miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. As result of numerous accidents and indiscriminate hazardous waste and materials management practices over many years, the 2,850-acre SSFL is contaminated with radioactive and chemical substances that seriously threaten public health and the environment. The parties responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the site are the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and The Boeing Company. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control, part of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), is the lead agency responsible for overseeing activities at the site. DTSC is implementing a recently-enacted state law (Senate Bill 990, Statutes of 2007, Chapter 729), which put into place a set of stringent provisions that govern the cleanup for this site. This new law has given California an opportunity to achieve a comprehensive and expedited cleanup of the site. Cleanup pursuant to SB 990 will be protective not only of future uses of the site but also of the surrounding community. This new law has given members of the community surrounding SSFL and other stakeholders hope that the cleanup of this site that they have long sought can finally be achieved.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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AIR RESOURCES BOARD • DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION • DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD • OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT
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In December of 2007, U.S. EPA Region IX asked for the State's position on whether the site should be listed on the National Priorities List (NPL). After analysis of the issues and many months of working with the responsible parties and the impacted community, on January 14, 2009, we formally communicated to U.S. EPA the state's position that U.S. EPA should not list the site on the NPL. We did, however, request technical assistance in areas where U.S. EPA has significant expertise, as well as credibility with members of the community surrounding SSFL. In addition, we urged U.S. EPA to carry out its responsibilities under the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2764). That act directed DOE to enter into an interagency agreement with U.S. EPA to conduct a comprehensive radiologic characterization of SSFL Area IV (290 acres). The results of this radiologic survey will be foundational to much of the site characterization work needing to be performed and would be best if conducted in coordination with other site activities.

In addition to the radiologic survey and technical assistance referenced above, for over 20 years U.S. EPA Region IX has facilitated and provided monetary support to the SSFL Interagency Workgroup, an organization that has facilitated communication and coordination among the many regulatory agencies involved in the site. The Workgroup has also played a key role in helping the community surrounding SSFL to understand site activities and to participate in characterization and clean-up decision processes.

With the change in Administration and your appointment of as Administrator, I wanted to communicate to you that the cleanup of this site is a high priority to California. The cleanup of this site will depend upon a very close and cooperative relationship between the state of California and the federal agencies. The following are the specific areas of assistance that California requests of U.S. EPA:

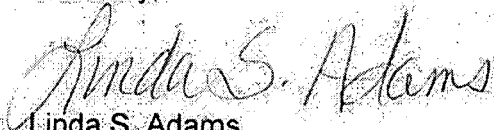
1. Complete the Radiologic Survey - In order to meet the June 2017 target date for cleanup of the site, it is imperative that U.S. EPA Region IX complete the radiologic survey of SSFL Area IV before the end of 2011 so that other site activities are not delayed or impacted.
2. Provide Technical Assistance - As requested in prior correspondence, the State continues to seek the following:
 - a) Consultative assistance on technical issues concerning radionuclide contamination at the SSFL and surrounding properties;
 - b) Access to CERCLA radiation experts in the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation; and
 - c) Technical support from U.S. EPA's Radiation and Indoor Environments Laboratory in Las Vegas, Nevada.
3. Continue Support of the SSFL Interagency Workgroup - Continuation of this communication link between the community and site activities is a vital part of the State's public participation strategy, and U.S. EPA's role in providing this logistical support is vital to its success.

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4. Assist in Securing Funding for Cleanup - Both NASA and DOE are significant responsible parties at this site, and as federal agencies, are generally dependent upon annual federal appropriations to meet their financial cleanup obligations. The State respectfully requests that you assist in securing adequate funding for DOE and NASA to meet their respective investigation and clean-up obligations. In particular, we request that some of the substantial funds in the recently signed Economic Stimulus Plan be used by DOE to meet its obligations at the SSFL.

I thank you very much for your attention to this very important problem. We look forward to a positive working relationship with U.S. EPA as we move forward in overseeing the cleanup of this site. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me. I also look forward to meeting with you and your team in the very near future to discuss this and other topics of mutual interest.

Sincerely,



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

cc: Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20585

Christopher Scolese, Acting Administrator
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
NASA Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001

Laura Yoshii, Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Constitution Avenue & 2nd Street NE
Washington, DC 20510

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The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Constitution Avenue & 2nd Street NE
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Henry Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0523

The Honorable Elton Gallegly
U.S. House of Representatives
2309 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0523

The Honorable Brad Sherman
U.S. House of Representatives
2242 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0524

The Honorable Fran Pavley
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Julia Brownley
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Audra Strickland
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4208
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Member Cameron Smyth
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4153
Sacramento, California 95814

Cindy Tuck, Undersecretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812-2815

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Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Legislative Affairs
California Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812-2815

Tracy Egoscue, Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

Rick Brausch, Deputy Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806

Norman E. Riley, SSFL Project Director
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806